

The Ironworks shop where Howard Ban was apprenticed was destroyed in early 1990 by Serbian revolutionaries.

WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN AMERICA

(By Alexander J. Negvesky)

America was founded on the beliefs of equality and freedom from tyranny. Together, they form the basic idea of America, and are our inalienable rights. I have never thought of America as a country, but more of as a union of all the people within the boundaries of the United States. I have seen the news reports about other countries fighting for their freedom. The countries seem to be controlled by dictators. People shouldn't have to fight for their freedom. It is a right they should have to begin with. We have many freedoms; freedom of speech, religion, choice, and the press are the most important of our freedoms. I am happy to live in America and to be an American. I enjoy exercising my rights. If they were taken away from me, I would fight to get them back. Freedom is part of America, and I hope it always will be.

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

(By Fred Ngo)

Through mountains and hills has America over to get to its greatest achievement, a nation full of equity and freedom. This achievement stated in the Constitution for all to see, follow, and know that America is the people and can't survive without the people.

The Constitution is a wonder. How could a little group of people work together to form the blueprints for an entire government? Powers of the people, rules of the government, everything was included. It all starts out with "We the people of the United States of America . . ." These powerful words represent all people of the U.S. "In order to form a more perfect union. . . ." meaning all work together to operate the government. One line in the Declaration of Independence is also important. "That they are endowed by their Creator certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The 3 guaranteed rights of the people and the goal of every government. They are the rights all should have. Is America a place of freedom? Yes, it is. How? Because here, you have life: a chance to live, you have liberty: to be free and independent, you have a chance at happiness.

TRIBUTE TO STAGECRAFTERS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as the Stagecrafters present their 40th anniversary season, I rise today to recognize the important role that this community theater has played in the lives of citizens of Royal Oak and theater lovers throughout southeastern Michigan.

What began in the summer of 1956 with a production of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit," presented in a garage in Clawson, has evolved into a large family of 250 volunteers, 2,400 season ticketholders, 21,000 main stage audience members in their own house, and a reputation as one of the finest community theater groups in Michigan.

Each year Stagecrafters presents a full season of drama and musical theater. In the late

1970's Stagecrafters added the popular youth theater group for ages 12 to 18, and studio productions of nonbox office shows performed during the summer.

In 1984, recognizing the need for an adequate space for both production and audience accommodation, the search began in earnest for a permanent home. The city of Royal Oak offered to help Stagecrafters purchase the historic, decaying Washington Theater. With help from the Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority and the National Bank of Royal Oak this volunteer community theater group undertook the purchase and restoration of this recognized landmark. The Baldwin Theater reopened in 1985, one of the oldest theaters left in existence in southeast Michigan and the only historic theater in operation in Oakland County, a jewel in the city's crown.

Through this effort, Stagecrafters has, indeed, played a vital role in the redevelopment of downtown Royal Oak for more than a decade.

Today the Baldwin Theater balcony has been added as an active second stage with its own following. The youth theater group continues to be one of the best in the State and has hosted two international community theater competitions; a sister-theater relationship has been developed with St. Albans in England. The theater features an infrared assistive listening system for the hearing impaired, and the Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ has been restored—the only theater organ in an open-to-the-public space in Oakland County. A capital campaign is under-way now to improve the exterior of the Baldwin Theater and install a replica of the original marquee.

In this 40th anniversary season, Stagecrafters' ability to restore the Baldwin Theater building through volunteer efforts, and to consistently provide high quality dramatic entertainment at affordable prices, makes Stagecrafters unique among community theater groups in the United States.

NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ACTION DAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, the National People's Action is a national network of more than 300 community organizations from 38 States across the country. The National People's Action is made up of thousands of members in many different organizations that work together to resolve neighborhood problems at local and national levels.

The enactment of the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act which protects urban areas and minorities from loan discrimination, and providing technical assistance to community groups which directly led to over \$25 billion in Community Reinvestment Act lending agreements are a few of the numerous major accomplishments of the National People's Action.

Mr. Speaker, Saturday, April 27 to Monday, April 29, 1996 National People's Action holds its 25th national neighborhoods conference. In recognition of this organizations dedication and commitment to community service let it be known that Monday, April 29, 1996 and each April 29, thereafter, shall be known as "National People's Action Day".

CONGRATULATIONS SHELBYVILLE HIGH BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Shelbyville High School basketball team on their championship season. For the past 2 years, Shelbyville has proven themselves a force to be reckoned with on the hardwoods of central Illinois. It is only fitting that, having been ranked No. 1 for most of the season, the Rams became the first State champion team to win the title in Peoria's Carver Arena.

After making the trip to the "Elite Eight" before falling in 1995, the virtually unchanged Rams roster came back in 1996 determined and prepared to achieve their goal of proving they truly were No. 1. This year's Rams team compiled an all-time record high in the school's history, finishing the season 34-1, and bringing the State championship trophy home to Shelbyville for the first time ever. In addition, they have the added distinction of having the best 2-year won-loss record in the State of Illinois for the 1995-96 combined seasons.

Blending their abilities for this No. 1 team were: Kevin Herdes, Todd Wilderman, Mike Steers, Roger Jones, Rich Beyers, Ben Short, Dirk Herdes, Aaron Rohdemann, Tim Hardy, Harlan Kennell, Jim Brix, and Ryan Shambo. This talented bunch of players were led by first-class coach Sean Taylor and his assistant coaches, Bob Herdes and Jarrett Brown. They are the perfect example of what teamwork is all about and should all be proud of their contribution toward this winning effort. Lending their support and leading the community in Ram Fever Spirit were cheerleaders Jennifer L. Banning, Rachel Bitzer, Catherine Eberspacher, Angie Gregg, Brooke Peifer, Malea Price, Monica Nohren, Shauna Galvin, Leslie Kirksey, Brooke White, Jennifer S. Banning, Kelly Hoene, Carrie Skinner, Destany Lucas, Rebecca White; sponsors Dixie Burrell and Lisa Alberson; Ram mascot Dan Kiley; and team managers George Bolinger and John Evans.

I am honored to represent Shelbyville in Congress; and it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to these excellent students, who won not only with talent, but by displaying the intangible qualities that define a champion: discipline, esprit de corps, and grace under pressure. I wish them equal success in their future endeavors.

COMMENDING DOCTORS RUSS, RUSSANO, AND SHERMAN

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, true happiness dwells in activity, both physical and spiritual. Joy, pleasure, satisfaction, delight, all the elements of true happiness, reside in doing the right things well. For a select few, the right thing to do is to serve a community in distress.

Despite the myriad problems that plague many of New Jersey's major cities, the dentists of the Downtown Dental Center have